

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Remembrance Service For Those Who Have Lost A Loved One To Suicide

Kansas City, MO (November 1, 2011) – Suicide Awareness Survivors Support (SASS) will hold their Fourth Annual Remembrance Service on Saturday, November 19, from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. The event will be at D. W. Newcomer's Sons Stine & McClure Chapel, 3235 Gillham Plaza, Kansas City, MO 64109 (www.stineandmcclure.com).

After Mickey and Bonnie Swade lost their 31-year-old son Brett to suicide in December 2003, they wanted to help others who had lost loved ones to suicide. They formed SASS, (www.Sass-MoKan.com), a 501c(3) not-for-profit organization which is the largest survivor support group in the Kansas City metropolitan and surrounding areas. As many as 25 survivors meet for emotional support and healing the second and fourth Tuesday of the month at Life Dynamics on the campus of Shawnee Mission Medical Center.

The Remembrance Service will coincide with National Survivors of Suicide Day which is a day of healing for those who have lost someone to suicide. It was created by a U.S. Senate resolution in 1999 through the efforts of Senator Harry Reid of Nevada, who lost his father to suicide.

During the local Remembrance Service, SASS will view a portion of the National Broadcast conducted by The American Foundation of Suicide Prevention (www.afsp.org) that will connect survivors of suicide loss throughout the world. Afterwards SASS will have a local panel made up of professionals and survivors to discuss their experiences and some tips on how to make the holidays still special after a loved one's death. There will be a presentation on grieving and lighting of candles in memory of loved ones.

SASS would like those who are attending the service to send in JPG photos of their loved ones to Joe Spiller at joe@sass-mokan.com or mail to Joe at 8500 W. 95th St., Overland Park, KS 66212. The photos with loved one's name, birth date and when he or she died need to be received by November 15 so they can be shown on a DVD during the candle lighting service.

Bonnie would be available for an interview to talk about SASS and the emotional support and healing it provides for those losing someone to suicide. She could discuss warning signs and initiatives through their speaker's bureau to prevent suicide, especially among teens. Another topic could be how society tends to judge suicidal death and SASS's efforts to educate the public that suicide can happen in any family from any walk of life.

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For more information about the National Survivors of Suicide Day and the SASS Remembrance Service, please visit www.sass-mokan.com. For those interested in attending, please call Bonnie Swade at 913-681-3050 or e-mail info@sass-mokan.com by November 15. There is no charge for the event although SASS would be most grateful for any donations. The afternoon will conclude with friendship and refreshments.

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Upcoming Events

On Sunday, February 19, 2012, SASS will hold their second annual Survivors of Suicide Healing Day. Their ninth annual Community Remembrance Walk to raise awareness about suicide will be on Sunday, September 9, 2012 and is the organization's major fundraiser.